

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

1 ~~2~~. (currently amended) ~~An~~The isolated nucleic acid of claim ~~1~~, wherein
~~the nucleic acid has~~ having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

2 ~~3~~. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim ~~2~~ ¹[[1]],
 wherein the nucleic acid is DNA or RNA.

3 ~~4~~. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim ~~2~~ ¹[[1]],
 wherein the nucleic acid is cDNA.

5-14. (canceled)

4 ~~15~~. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim ~~2~~ ¹[[1]],
 wherein the nucleic acid is labeled with a detectable marker. 4

5 ~~16~~. (original) The isolated nucleic acid of claim ~~15~~, wherein the detectable
 marker is a radioactive isotope, a fluorophor or an enzyme.

6 ~~17~~. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid complementary to the
 entire sequence of the nucleic acid of claim ~~2~~ ¹[[1]].

18. (canceled)

7 ~~19~~. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim ~~17~~ ⁶, wherein
 the isolated nucleic acid is labeled with a detectable marker.

8 ~~20~~. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim ~~19~~ ⁷,
 wherein the marker is a radioactive isotope, a fluorophor or an enzyme.

21-22. (canceled)

9 ~~23~~. (currently amended) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of
 claim ~~2~~ ¹[[1]].

¹⁰
~~24~~. (previously presented) The vector of claim ⁹~~23~~, further comprising a promoter or an expression element linked to the nucleic acid.

¹¹
~~25~~. (original) The vector of claim ⁹~~23~~, wherein the promoter comprises a bacterial, yeast, insect or mammalian promoter.

¹²
~~26~~. (previously presented) The vector of claim ¹⁰~~24~~, wherein the vector is a plasmid, cosmid, yeast artificial chromosome (YAC), BAC, P1, bacteriophage or eukaryotic viral DNA.

¹³
~~27~~. (previously presented) An isolated host cell containing the vector of claim ⁹~~23~~.

¹⁴
~~28~~. (previously presented) The isolated host cell of claim ¹³~~27~~, wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.

¹⁵
~~29~~. (previously presented) The isolated host cell of claim ¹⁴~~28~~, wherein the eukaryotic cell is a yeast, insect, plant or mammalian cell.

¹⁶
~~30~~. (previously presented) ⁹ A method for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim ⁹~~27~~ under conditions suitable for production of the polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

¹⁷
~~31~~. (previously presented) A method of obtaining a polypeptide in purified form comprising:

- (a) introducing the vector of claim ⁹~~28~~ into a suitable host cell;
- (b) culturing the resulting cell so as to produce the polypeptide;
- (c) recovering the polypeptide produced in step (b); and
- (d) purifying the polypeptide.

32-58. (canceled)